

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 530
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the 1996 NCAA Women's Basketball
Champion, the Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

WHEREAS, throughout the storied history of intercollegiate athletics there have on occasion emerged teams who attain the level of success that all others hope to emulate. This season the basketball spotlight shines brightest on the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers, whose unique blend of experience, youth and athleticism enabled them to capture the 1996 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship over the University of Georgia in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, for their noble efforts the Lady Vols were awarded the prestigious Sears Trophy, presented annually to the top ranked team in the final *USA Today/CNN* Women's Basketball Coaches Association Poll; and

WHEREAS, reaching the Final Four was a feat in itself for the Lady Vols. Down by 17 points to Virginia in the NCAA East Regional Finals with 17:06 to play, the team launched the greatest comeback in UT basketball history with a 23 point swing, earning themselves a trip to the "Big Dance"; and

WHEREAS, the 88-83 overtime win over Connecticut avenged last year's matchup and demonstrated the awesome physical and mental toughness the Lady Vols brought to the Final Four; and

WHEREAS, throughout the tournament the Lady Vols were led by NCAA East Regional Most Valuable Player Latina Davis, who scored 16 points in the first half against Radford, added

25 points against Ohio State, tossed in 18 against Kansas and ripped Virginia with 12 points and nine rebounds; and

WHEREAS, the win over Virginia gave Tennessee its eighth 30-win season in the history of the school, reaching this remarkable plateau for the third consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, for their brilliant performances, Davis, Chamique Holdsclaw and Michelle Marciniak were named to the NCAA East Regional All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, in a battle of two Southeastern Conference titans, the Lady Vols attacked Georgia from the outset, causing the Lady 'Dogs to wither under Tennessee's stifling pressure defense and superior rebounding; and

WHEREAS, with a balanced scoring attack and implementation of Coach Summitt's Rule that "offense sells tickets, defense wins games and rebounds win tournaments" the Lady Vols dominated top-ranked Georgia, limiting consensus national player of the year Saudia Roundtree to a mere eight points; and

WHEREAS, with talent the likes of Final Four Most Valuable Player Michelle Marciniak, appropriately dubbed "Spin-derella" for her flamboyant, whirling, dribbling moves; Latina Davis and her impenetrable defensive pressure; pure shooting sensation Chamique Holdsclaw; Abby Conklin and her deadly accuracy from the three-point line; and great defense and post play by Tiffani Johnson and Pashen Thompson, this outstanding group of achievers would not be denied; and

WHEREAS, other Lady Vols making key contributions to the team's success include Kellie Jolly, Brynae Laxton, Misty Greene, Kim Smallwood, and Laurie Milligan; and

WHEREAS, those Lady Vols earning special recognition for their outstanding play during the regular season include Chamique Holdsclaw, who was named to the prestigious Kodak All-Region and All-American teams; she is the first UT freshman and only the sixth freshman ever to earn such an honor. In addition, the United States Basketball Writers Association named Holdsclaw as its 1996 Freshman of the Year and to its first team All-America squad. She was also named an Associated Press and United Press International Third Team All-American and

was recognized as the fifth best “Pure Shooter” in women’s basketball by College Sports magazine; and

WHEREAS, also deserving of special commendation for her regular season performance was Michelle Marciniak, named as an AP and UPI honorable mention All-American; rated by College Sports as the fifth “Best Passer” in the nation; and awarded the “Prudential Peer Achievement Award” for her outstanding contributions to campus life. When asked by Coach Summitt two years ago why she wanted to transfer to Tennessee from Notre Dame, Marciniak prophetically responded, “to play for the best coach in the game and to win a national championship”; and

WHEREAS, known for her tenacious defense and outstanding leadership, Latina Davis received recognition by College Sports as the best “Defender” in the nation, and was named to the 10-member Senior College All-Star team; this in addition to her numerous postseason honors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers for winning the 1996 NCAA Women’s Basketball Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success both on and off the hardwood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each of the above named persons with this final clause omitted from such copies.